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Out of the Depths

The Story of a Successful Career of a Kentucky Pedagogue

Mr. Charles H. Brooks, Five Times Secretary of the Grand United Order of the Odd Fellows of America—His Splendid Equipment and Executive Ability—The Marvel of Odd Fellowship—New life and Activity in the Order and a Beacon Light to the Brotherhood—His Services Gratefully Remembered and a Demand that He be Put Back into Harness Again—A Brilliant Career.

One of the most interesting young men is Mr. Charles H. Brooks, now of Philadelphia, Pa. He is interesting in many ways, whether we view him as a Southerner who has come up to the North and fought a successful fight in intellectual pursuits, and this view of him is essentially comparative, or he be regarded as a purely positive proposition he is equally engaging. He hails from Paducah, Ky., and in the schools of that city he won such distinction that he found little difficulty, upon his graduation from the highest grade, in securing an appointment as a teacher in the primary branch of the system there established. He rose steadily in the estimation of the people of Paducah, and especially of the school officials, and in an unusually short space of time he became the principal of the entire colored school system of his native city. After thirteen years' service as an educator he sought and found the larger opportunity for personal advancement and mental growth in a clerkship in one of the Government departments in Washington, and using it as a fulcrum, he perfected himself for his life's work by a thorough course in bookkeeping at the Spencian Business College in this city, and still further broadened himself by availing himself of the facilities afforded by the law department of Howard University.

It is well known that the examination prescribed by the bar of this District has been for a number of years



HON. JUDSON W. LYONS,

Register of the U. S. Treasury, Washington, D. C.

of a most rigid character, and so well did Mr. Brooks acquit himself therein that the chairman of the committee on examination moved his admission to practice before the Supreme Court of the District. Mr. Brooks has for years been an enthusiastic worker in the ranks of secret societies, and recognizing his attainments and his loyalty to the order, the Grand United Order of Odd Fellows elected him grand Secretary in October, 1892. He promptly resigned his Government position and proceeded to the city of Philadelphia, where the headquarters of the order were established. It is related that the condition of the order's affairs in 1892 was most unpromising. Mr. Brooks was, however, not disheartened, but with infinite pa-

tience he soon brought order out of chaos. He filled the place for ten years and upon retiring therefrom found that his efforts had resulted in paying off every obligation, in accumulating a surplus of \$50,000, and in realizing the hopes of the order, vainly cherished for twenty years, in the establishment and complete furnishing of a printing plant which now publishes a weekly journal of more than average respectability. During the period of his service he also wrote two complete histories of the order, which are still regarded as authoritative, and his zeal for the weal of the organization led him to visit many parts of the United States and Europe

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Leader of His Race

Register Judson W. Lyons Thrills a Michigan Audience

The Colored Voters of Michigan on the Alert and still Loyal to the Party of Lincoln, Grant, and McKinley—The Co-operative League Organized on a Permanent Basis and is Represented by Twenty Counties in the Wolverine State—A Political Love Feast.

KALAMAZOO, MICH., Special.—One hundred and seventy-five delegates, representing twenty Michigan counties, attended the State assembly and convention of the Michigan Co-operative League, held at the Auditorium in this city Monday.

The meeting was the most successful of the kind ever held in the State. A permanent organization was perfected and officers elected for the year.

The assembly was called by the temporary State committee and met in Kalamazoo largely through the efforts of Chairman Thomas W. Stewart of this city. From the opening of the session at 10 o'clock yesterday morning until the last dance at the big assembly hall was played by Finney's orchestra, of Detroit, the convention was one of grand success.

The convention was called to order at 10 o'clock Monday morning by Temporary Chairman Thomas W. Stewart. Prior to that a preliminary caucus of the delegates and members of the convention was held in the Auditorium parlors. Dr. J. W. James, of Detroit, was elected temporary chairman and A. A. Owens, of Wayne county, temporary secretary. Committees were appointed on credentials, permanent organization, constitution, and regular order of business. The convention adjourned at noon and convened again at 2 o'clock.

The officers elected were as follows: President—R. C. Barnes, Detroit.

First vice-president—Oscar W. Baker, Bay City.

Second Vice-president—Robert Bowman, Grand Rapids.

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